

REMARKS

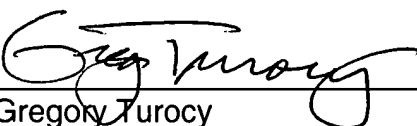
Claims 27-42 are pending in the application upon entry of the amendments and new claims. Claims 1-26 have been cancelled without prejudice, and much of the subject matter of claims 1-26 is recast as new claims 27-42. The new claims more closely conform to U.S. patent practice and do not contain multiple dependencies. Favorable examination in light of the amendments and new claims is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In the event any fees are due in connection with the filing of this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1063.

Respectfully submitted,

**AMIN & TUROCY, LLP**

  
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Gregory Turocy  
Reg. No. 36,952

24<sup>th</sup> Floor, National City Center  
1900 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114  
(216) 696-8730  
Fax (216) 696-8731